

The Feedline
Oakland County Amateur Radio Society
Organized 1937, ARRL affiliation 1962
Monthly Newsletter
September 2015



President's Message, by Joe Miller KJ8O

Can you believe that Labor Day is almost here? It seems like we only had one month of summer with all the rain and cold temperatures through June and even early July. My wife and I power wash our deck every two-three years and then give it several coats of stain. Between working one day, rain the next, drying everything off on the third, and going back to work on the fourth day, it took us just over a month to finish it this year. So like many of you, we are asking ourselves "what summer?". Hopefully, you had some time to enjoy the finer parts of summer, especially with your children and/or grandchildren and/or great-grandchildren.

My highlight was traveling to Columbus Ohio for the Great Lakes Convention with Jim Vigne KB8TXZ, and although the drive there seemed like it would never come to an end, we enjoyed the event as well as our trip to one of the more well-known local restaurants afterwards. I can't say too much about it, but if you ever get a chance to take part in the Wouff Hong ceremony, you may find it rather amusing....

Some tips of the hat goes out to Dave Wagner, the host of morning and afternoon shows on WRCJ-FM. Dave has been an amateur radio operator for more than 20 years, and did a great job of talking up Field Day, including our OCARS event, even though mother nature interfered with our plans. Dave has not been asked yet, but I have it in mind to see if he would like to make a short presentation to our club.

Also, Larry KB8POD has arranged the successful completion of all the Oakland County Severe weather sirens for the northwest corner, and still has three months. Please refer to his write within this issue, as there is still work to be done, and sever weather never knows when to stop.

And a round of kudos also goes out to our OCARS members who continued to check into our Monday Night nets. Something new, At the close of each month, a station activity report is now being sent to Michigan Section NTS Traffic Manager which includes the number of nets conducted, the number of NTS Traffic items handled, the total number of check-ins, and the total length of time that the nets ran. This was started with our July 2015 activity, and it is one of our goals for the coming year to report this every month.

The month of September usually includes some large scale operating events, including the Route 66 Special Event to operate between September 12th and the 20th. 21 stations using special event calls ranging from W6A to W6U will be active starting in Chicago, ending in Los Angeles and number of sites in between. I will be interested in hearing how many of members will make contacts this year.

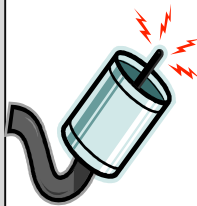
As for the monthly meeting, every once in a while the first Tuesday falls before Labor Day, and this is the case this year. Please make a note on your calendars to attend. Our presentation will be about the FT8ZM DXPedition to Amsterdam Island in early 2014, and it will be very interesting to see the amount of effort to put this one together. Hope to see you tomorrow night.

VY 73 de Joe, KJ8O, OCARS President





The Feedline
Oakland County Amateur Radio Society
Organized 1937, ARRL affiliation 1962
Monthly Newsletter
September 2015



Siren Testing: September 5, 2015, at 1:00 pm. Please check into the Clarkston Repeater to volunteer

OCARS Meetings

- Tuesday, September 1, monthly meeting at 7:30, video of the FT5ZM DXpedition
- Tuesday, October 6, monthly meeting at 7:30, to be determined
- Tuesday, November 3, monthly meeting at 7:30, to be determined
- Tuesday, December 1, monthly meeting at 7:30, annual election

Meeting location: Bethany Baptist Church, 1375 Hiller Rd., Waterford
 doors open at 7:00, meeting begins at 7:30

Social Gathering: Wednesday 10:15 – 11:30 am, Village Place restaurant
 S.W. corner of Dixie Highway and Andersonville Rd., Waterford

Officers and Directors:

President:	Joe Miller KJ8O	Directors:	Tim Pepper K8NWD
Secretary:	Scott Craig N2OPQ		Al Bailey K8SIX
Treasurer:	John Eldred N8FNN		Fred Holmes W1SKU
Trustee:	Brad Nowak N8SNM		Jim Vigne KB8TXZ

OCARS Net: 8:00 pm (local time) on the Clarkston Repeater, 146.840 MHz, p.l. tone 100 Hz,
 Joe KJ8O is net control and welcomes participation from all area hams.

Checkins: Dates are local time, Monday evenings, with number of check-ins, and NCS:

June 1, 29	June 29, 20	July 27, 21
June 8, 25	July 6, 20	Aug. 3, 19
June 15, (no net)	July 13, 18	Aug. 10, 19
June 22, 20	July 20, 15	Aug. 17, 20

Website: www.qsl.net/w8tno maintained by webmaster Scott Craig N2OPQ

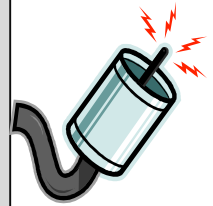
Contact information: w8tno.ocars@gmail.com or kj8o.ham@gmail.com (for an immediate response)

Great Lakes Division: <http://www.arrl-greatlakes.org/>

Michigan Section: <http://www.arrl.org/sections/view/michigan> (updated on the 15th of the month)



The Feedline
Oakland County Amateur Radio Society
Organized 1937, ARRL affiliation 1962
Monthly Newsletter
September 2015



Upcoming Hamfests

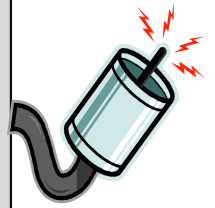
- Sept. 19, 2015 GMARC Fall Trunk Swap
<http://www.gmarc.org/>
- Sept. 20, 2015 Adrian Hamfest, Adrian, MI
<http://www.adrianhamfest.com/>
- Oct. 3, 2015 GRAhamfest, Wyoming, MI
<http://www.w8dc.org/attachments/2015GRAHamFestFlyer.pdf>
- Oct. 10, 2015 TBARC Swap, Alpena, MI
http://thunderbayarc.org/wpcontent/uploads/2013/10/Alpena_2015_Hamfest.pdf
- Oct. 17, 2015 Muskegon Hamfest, Muskegon, MI
<http://mcecs.net/Download/2015HamfestFlyer.pdf>
- Oct. 18, 2015 Kazoo Hamfest, Kalamazoo, MI
http://kalamazoohamfest.com/assets/flyers/33rd_Annual_KALAMAZOO_HAMFEST.pdf
- Oct. 25, 2015 USECA Hamfest, Madison Heights, MI
<http://usecaarc.com/> (no flyer as of Aug. 31 – Ed.)

Upcoming Contests and/or Operating Events

- Sept. 12 to 20, 2015 Route 66 On The Air <http://w6jbt.org/>
- Sept. 26 & 27, 2015 CQ Worldwide RTTY Contest <http://cqwwrtty.com/>
- Sept. 27, 2015 ALS Walk, Kensington Metro Park (see Larry KB8POD)



The Feedline
Oakland County Amateur Radio Society
Organized 1937, ARRL affiliation 1962
Monthly Newsletter
September 2015



OCARS Meeting Minutes for 06/02/2015
Scott A. Craig N2OPQ, Secretary

Meeting called to order at 7:30pm by Joe KJ8O, president.

Business Meeting:

- We had 27 people in attendance at the June meeting.
- May meeting minutes motion to approve by Doug, N8VY. Seconded by Rick, KD8ZMX. Carried Unanimously.
- The Treasurer's report was given by John Eldred, N8FNN. Motion to accept by Greg, W8VIJ. Seconded by Jim, KB8TXZ. Carried Unanimously.

Old business:

- We're still trying to find a room/place for regular kit building meetings. Working in cooperation with the Michigan QRP Club. Doug, N8VY will be speaking with someone from Oakland University.
- Golf Shirts \$23. If interested see Jim Vigne, KB8TXZ.

New Business:

- Last year we held our first annual OCARS picnic. Looking to continue the tradition this year. We're thinking about doing it September 12th.
- There were 29 check-ins to the weekly OCARS Monday night net.
- Discussed GOTA service pins to be awarded for field day GOTA amateur radio operator participants who make 20 or more contacts, non-hams any contacts. Looking to use club funding to cover cost. Larry, KB8POD motion to accept. Ken, W8KRS seconded. Carried Unanimously.
- Clarkston Repeater Association (CRA) – Tim's appeal for covering expenses. Costs money to maintain phone line, flooding, etc. \$100 proposed. Larry, KB8POD moved. Greg, W8VIJ seconded. Carried unanimously.
- Church donation. Last time we gave a donation was about December 2013. Larry, KB8POD motioned to donate \$250. Seconded by Greg, W8VIJ. Also to donate \$150 every year. Approved unanimously.
- Chris, KD4LJT has 2 hand held radios and is asking for help to reprogram one of them.
- A few years ago we voted to make K8NWD a life member. Proposal to make John Eldred, N8FNN, a life member. Unanimously carried.

-- Coffee break from 8:06pm to 8:25pm --

- Discussion on upcoming siren test by Larry, KB8POD. 64 Sirens already checked, 41 left to check this year. There are 274 sirens in all of Oakland County. Contact Larry if you wish to volunteer to check one.
- Tentative date for W8UZZ's Jeep radio installation for September meeting.

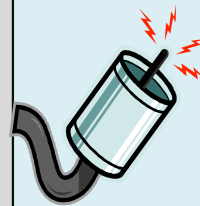
June Presentation – Field Day Planning

- (Original plans were to work using 3 stations, sign up sheet was passed around, assignments were made, and ultimately cancelled the night before Field Day was scheduled to begin.)
- The 50/50 winner was Joe, KJ8O. He donated the money to the club.
- Meeting adjourned about 9:00pm.

Respectfully submitted, Scott N2OPQ



The Feedline
Oakland County Amateur Radio Society
Organized 1937, ARRL affiliation 1962
Monthly Newsletter
September 2015



September 5, 2015 Siren Test

Last Sunday (August 23) we had an occasion for the sirens to go off in our area. It would be nice to know how many of you were outside and heard the siren in your area. I know I opened the door at my Granddaughter's and I could just hear the siren very faint. It is for this reason that I will be going out and checking the siren near her house on September 5 to make sure it is working. Luck was with us and nothing bad developed in Oakland County.

Thanks to a lot of you, all the sirens in the North West Section of Oakland County have been checked already this year. There are 3 months left for checking sirens this year and this would be a good time to go out and check the siren that is near your house or where you work. It is said that the radio and TV will let us know if a storm is coming. This doesn't always happen with cable TV and if there is a lot of noise you might not hear a warning or see a warning. If the weather looks bad, you can always check outside to hear if there is a warning from the sirens. I received the notice on my cell phone after the alert was over and the warning by email only works if you are checking your email at the right time.

The saying goes "When all else fails Amateur Radio still works". We have to be our own first line of protection and we do this by checking sirens and checking into the local Skywarn nets.

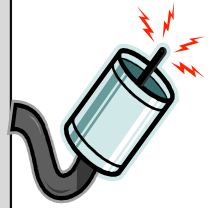
There will be a test of the sirens on September 5 at 1:00 p.m. I will be taking check ins, starting at 12:45 p.m. You are asked to sign up for a siren by emailing me at kb8pod@arrl.net or you can call me at (248) 421-2617.

Thanks again to all of you that have been helping this year and who knows maybe we can check all the sirens for a second time this year.

Larry Hornsby KB8POD



The Feedline
Oakland County Amateur Radio Society
Organized 1937, ARRL affiliation 1962
Monthly Newsletter
September 2015



My experiences with ham radio software and Windows 10
Joe Miller, KJ8O

After nearly a year of beta testing, Windows 10 was officially released to consumers on July 29, 2015. Being a part of the Michigan Section HF Digital Sound Card Team, I have this concern that one of us will be asked “does DM780 or FLDigi work with Windows 10?”. I had to wait about a week and half before I received my notice from Microsoft that I could go ahead with the download and installation. Starting with my notebook computer, I began the download at about 12:30 pm, and had two time-outs resulting in restarts. I think it was about 10:00 pm before the actual installation began, and after going through three reboots, the process finally was complete at about 12:30 am. I should note that while waiting for the downloads, my wife and I did some errands in between, so I have no idea of how much idle time was included in the twelve hours.

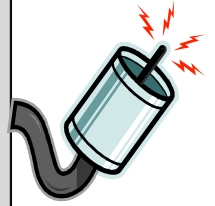
Then on Monday night, I see the “installation” icon on my desktop PC, (this is the one that I use for operating with digital mode), and at about 7:30 pm, I start the installation process. I should also note that this computer is left on nearly all the time, so the download part of the process was already complete. On this PC, the installation took just over an hour, and for the most part, went smoothly. Then getting DM780 and Ham Radio Deluxe to work was another story, since all the saved settings in the software were erased during the upgrade. Fortunately, I am well aware of the shortcoming in my computer that erases sound card settings the minute the computer is unplugged (as opposed to being turned off, as I suspect there is a trace amount of current active once turned off), and I quickly went to correct this first. Then when transmitting, I still had a high amount of ALC (it should be zero for digital modes), and with some more tweaking with exiting and restarting the program before I could adjust my output levels.

I am now happy to report that everything is working well with each other, and I have made a number of digital contacts since the operating system upgrade. So now when asked the dreaded question, my answer will be “yes, but”. Outside of ham radio, I have found that using Microsoft Money (Sunset Version available to paid users of earlier versions on Money) will no longer work under Win 10 as many of Money’s components were integrated with Internet Explorer 6, and is incompatible with Edge. Although, this was my only experience with this issue, I am sure there is other software that is incompatible also. Some other criticisms of Win 10 is that updates are forced and automatic, although it was recently reported in the ARRL Contest Update that there is a way allow the user to choose the time for their updates. I don’t think I have to mention the importance of this function to contesters. Another criticism is the level of data collection taking place, and I do know that some of this occurs to feed information to Cortana, a software app initially developed for Windows Phone 8.1 and is now part of Win 10. Also, Microsoft has stated that this software would be made available to licensed users of Win 7 and Win 8.1 for a year, but I have not heard how much the subscription fees will be after that. And lastly, from those who have not had their upgrade go so smoothly, Microsoft does not offer any assistance other than to take your computer to a shop.

If you have not yet made the decision to upgrade, I hope you will find my report to be useful. In the case of my checkbook, I have an XP on hand and was able to export my data file to this older computer, and all is working well. In conclusion, it can be done, but a little planning may go along way.



The Feedline
Oakland County Amateur Radio Society
Organized 1937, ARRL affiliation 1962
Monthly Newsletter
September 2015



2015 Field Day supporting documents
Oakland County Amateur Radio Society

To: American Radio Relay League
From: Joseph Miller, KJ8O, President
CC: Scott Craig, N2OPQ, Secretary
John Eldred, N8FNN, Treasurer
Jim Vigne, KB8TXZ, Director
Tim Pepper, N8NWD, Director
Brad Nowak, N8SNM, Trustee
Date: July 26, 2015

It's all about emergency communications...

Summary: one amateur radio operator in participation, and several were on standby. The originally planned Field Day operation to be held at Springfield Oaks County Park in Davisburg Michigan was cancelled at 9:30 pm on Friday, June 26 as the weather prediction for Saturday included rain all day and wind gusts up to 35 miles per hour. Inasmuch as one of the portable towers used every year weighs approximately 500 pounds when assembled, we did not want to take any chances of injuring any of our members.

This year has been particularly demanding between the cold temperatures and snow fall during the winter, and the much higher than normal rainfall for the month of June.'

Although 285 contacts were made during Field Day, 21 contacts made with other "D" commercially powered stations were removed from the total contacts, and the net of 264 contacts were used for scoring purposes. The Dupe Sheet is attached as a separate document.

100% Emergency Power: commercial mains power used for all contacts made

Media Publicity: on Friday morning at about 8:20 am, David Wagner, DMA (KB8SUL) who is the morning host on WRCJ-FM in Detroit Michigan spent several minutes talking up Field Day, first mentioning the South Lyon Amateur Radio Club will be holding their Field Day exercise near I-96 in Milford, and that one of the staff at WRCJ would be participating with Field Day with the Arrow Communications Association in Ann Arbor, and then he mentioned a message received from Joe Miller who is the President of the Oakland County Amateur Radio and that they would be holding their Field Day exercise at the Springfield Oaks County Park in Davisburg. He then went on to say the Field Day exercises occur annually since 1933 and it used when conventional forms of communication is not available. Today, there are approximately 725,000 ham radio operators within the United States, and Field Day remains one of the most popular amateur radio events.

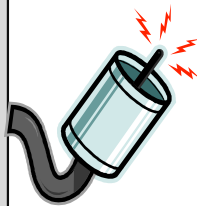
Comment: Afterwards, I had received several comments from both hams and non-hams saying that they had heard the announcement. WRCJ is a publicly owned radio station affiliated with Detroit Public Television and they play classical music 14 hours a day, and jazz for 10 hours each night.

Set-up in Public Place: n/a

Information Booth: n/a



The Feedline
Oakland County Amateur Radio Society
Organized 1937, ARRL affiliation 1962
Monthly Newsletter
September 2015



Outgoing message to section manager:

Number: 1
 Precedent: R (routine)
 HX: E
 Station of Origin: W8TNO
 Check: 24
 Place of Origin: Troy, MI
 Time: 02:15 (UTC)
 Date: June 28, 2015

Larry Camp, WB8R
 71 Oakdale Lane
 Coldwater, MI 49036
 517-278-0406

Oakland	County	amateur	radio	operators
are	participating	in	2015	Field
Day	from	W8TNO	x	1
amateur	and	1	other	visited
our	site	x	73	

Signature: Joe Miller KJ80

ARRL Field Day Message: not copied

Formal NTS Messages handled:

Number: 5685
 Prec: R (routine)
 HX: E
 Station of Origin: K7OAH
 Check: 13
 Place of Origin: Phoenix, AZ
 Time:
 Date: January 19, 2015

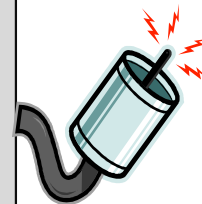
<<<recipient name and callsign withheld>>>

Join	us	to	keep	NTS
active	x	please	send	me
a	radiogram	73		

Signature: Skip K7OAH



The Feedline
Oakland County Amateur Radio Society
Organized 1937, ARRL affiliation 1962
Monthly Newsletter
September 2015



Satellite QSO completed: n/a

Natural Power QSOs Completed: n/a

Site visit by invited elected official: n/a

Site visit by invited served agency official: n/a

Educational activity: n/a

Youth participation: n/a

2015 Field Day Entry Form

Datestamp: 2015-07-26 15:15:22 PDT

Confirmation: 2518a0e48a551110

Use the following link if you want to update your Field Day entry:

<http://www.b4h.net/cabforms/fielddayupdate.php?callused=W8TNO&confirmation=2518a0e48a551110>

Thanks for using the web to submit your 2015 ARRL Field Day entry. Print this page to use as proof that you submitted your entry.

Call Used:**W8TNO** GOTA Station Call:(**none**) ARRL/RAC Section:**MI** Class:**1D**

Participants:**1** Club/Group Name: (**none**)

Power Source(s): **Commercial**

Power Multiplier: **2X**

Bonus Points:

Description	Points
Media Publicity	100
NTS message to ARRL SM/SEC	100
Formal NTS messages handled - No.=1	10
Submitted via the Web	50
Total Bonus Points	260

Score Summary: 264 QSO (all phone), Claimed Score: 528 points

Submitted by:

Oakland County Amateur Radio Society, W8TNO

C/O Joseph Miller, KJ8O, President

6928 Forest Park Ct.

Troy, MI 48098

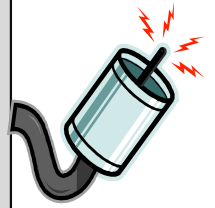
E-mail: kj8o.ham@gmail.com

Comments:

Our usual operation from Springfield Oaks County Park in Davisburg, Michigan was cancelled due to the rain and 35 mile an hour winds predicted for Saturday. Note that GOTA call sign "K8O" was reserved, but was not used either.



The Feedline
Oakland County Amateur Radio Society
Organized 1937, ARRL affiliation 1962
Monthly Newsletter
September 2015



Digital Voice Workshop in Traverse City, Michigan
September 26, 2015

Contact person: Ernest Abel, K8RCT

Phone [231-922-3672](tel:231-922-3672)

The Cherryland Amateur Radio Club is sponsoring a digital voice workshop on September 26, 2015 from 10:00 AM to 3 PM. The workshop will be held at the Salvation Army Post located at 1239 Barlow Street, Traverse City, Michigan, 49686.

The purpose of the workshop is to explore the new and not so new digital modes that are becoming popular on the VHF/UHF bands. We will have speakers presenting information on Icom D-star, Yaesu System Fusion and Motorola MotoTrbo modes. Here is your chance to come and learn about these modes and to actually try them out to see what works best for you!

The presenters will be:

D-Star: Chuck Scott N8DNX and Chuck Brew N8NXP
System Fusion: Mike Flynn KC8GW
MotoTrbo: Joe Erlewein N8CN

The cost of the workshop, which will include lunch, is \$10. All the proceeds will go to the Salvation Army for providing the meals for the participants.

Please register for this event so that we can plan for the lunch.

Log on to <http://bit.ly/carcdigital> to register.

For more information about the digital workshop, log on to <http://cherrylandarc.com/?p=1230>

ARRL Michigan Section
Section Manager: Larry Camp, WB8R
wb8r@arrrl.org
